

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01192 111420Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CU-04 AID-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W
-----094668 111454Z /46

P R 111341Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6373
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, SOCI, SF
SUBJ: ANGLICAN PRIEST AND TWO OTHERS ARRESTED AT SQUATTER CAMP

REF: (A) CAPE TOWN 1188; (B) CAPE TOWN 1191

SUMMARY: ANGLICAN PRIEST AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST DAVID RUSSELL WAS ARRESTED BY POLICE MORNING AUGUST 11 FOR TRYING TO OBSTRUCT DEMOLITION OF SQUATTER SHACKS. ALSO ARRESTED WERE TWO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. OVER 1,000 SHACKS REPORTED DEMOLISHED TO DATE, LEAVING SOME 5,000 - 6,000 RESIDENTS WITHOUT PERMANENT SHELTER. END SUMMARY

1. ANGLICAN PRIEST DAVID RUSSELL WAS ARRESTED BY POLICE AT MODDERDAM SQUATTER CAMP MORNING OF AUGUST 11, REPORTEDLY AFTER BEING PHYSICALLY REMOVED FROM FRONT END OF MECHANICAL SHOVEL WHICH WAS BEING USED TO DEMOLISH SHANTIES. ACCORDING TO ATTORNEY MIKE RIGHMAN, HE IS CURRENTLY BEING HELD WITHOUT BAIL. WHILE FORMAL CHARGES NOT YET
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FILED, HE PRESUMABLY WILL BE CHARGED WITH TRESPASSING AND INTERFERING WITH AUTHORITIES IN EXECUTION THEIR DUTY. RUSSELL IS CURRENTLY APPEALING CONVICTION ON CHARGE OF PUBLISHING "UNDESIRABLE" LITERATURE (CAPE TOWN 1149). TWO OTHER WHITE SYMPATHIZERS WERE ARRESTED, MICHAEL POPPLETON AND RICHARD DE SATGE.

2. A SOCIAL WORKER WHO HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH SQUATTERS TOLD CONGENOFF THAT OFFICIALS USING TWO FRONT END LOADERS AND A BULLDOZER CLEARED "HUNDREDS" OF SHACKS AUGUST 10. AS OF AUGUST 11 OVER 1,000 SHACKS HAD BEEN DEMOLISHED OR DISMANTLED BY RESIDENTS THEMSELVES AND "MOST" OF MODDERDAM CAMP HAS NOW BEEN CLEARED. OF THE 5,000-6,000 RESIDENTS LEFT HOMELESS SEVERAL HUNDRED WERE REPORTEDLY HOUSED NIGHT OF AUGUST 10 IN NEARBY ROMAN CATHOLIC FACILITY. OBSERVERS SAID FEW OF THE SQUATTERS WERE IN EVIDENCE AT MODDERDAM. SOME HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN BY FRIENDS AND RELATIVES IN OTHER CAMPS BUT AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE MOVED INTO BLACK TOWNSHIPS. THERE WERE REPORTS THAT BLACK STUDENTS VISITED CAMP NIGHT OF AUGUST 10 SEEKING TO ORGANIZE A MOVE BY SQUATTERS INTO SCHOOLS IN BLACK TOWNSHIPS.

3. OFFICIALS HAVE ANNOUNCED THEY WILL START CLEARING NEARBY WERKGENOT CAMP ON MONDAY, AUGUST 15. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE 5,000-6,000 SQUATTERS RENDERED HOMELESS SO FAR. SOCIAL WORKERS SAY MANY ARE SIMPLY WAITING PASSIVELY FOR "SOMETHING TO HAPPEN". THEY ADD THAT FEW, IF ANY, HAVE ANY INTENTION OF RETURNING TO HOMELANDS. CISKEI CHIEF MINISTER SEBE WAS REPORTED IN AUGUST 10 PRESS TO HAVE ECHOED CRITICISM OF SAG BY TRANSKEI "FOREIGN MINISTER" KOYANA (REFTEL A) BY SAYING THAT ONLY THOSE SQUATTERS

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WHO WERE CISKEIANS BY CHOICE HAD A HOME TO MOVE INTO WOULD BE ACCEPTED. ANY OTHERS ARRIVING IN THE CISKEI WOULD, HE SAID, BE SENT BACK TO WESTERN CAPE AS THEY WERE RESPONSIBILITY OF SAG. WHITE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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